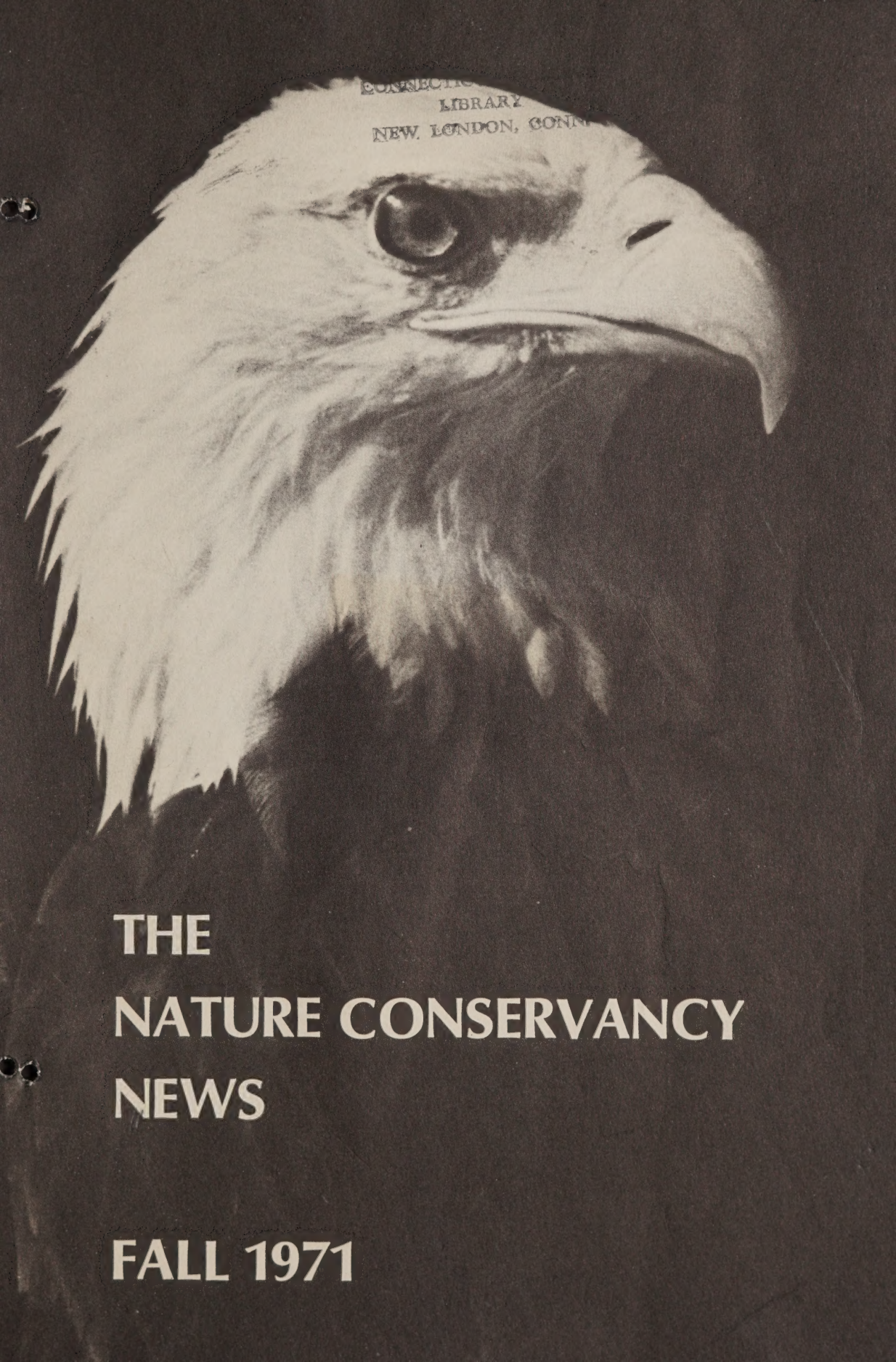
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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

FALL 1971

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The Nature Conservancy

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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A review of projects begun in recent months

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Cover Photo: Bald eagle, photo by John H. Gerard of National Audubon Society.

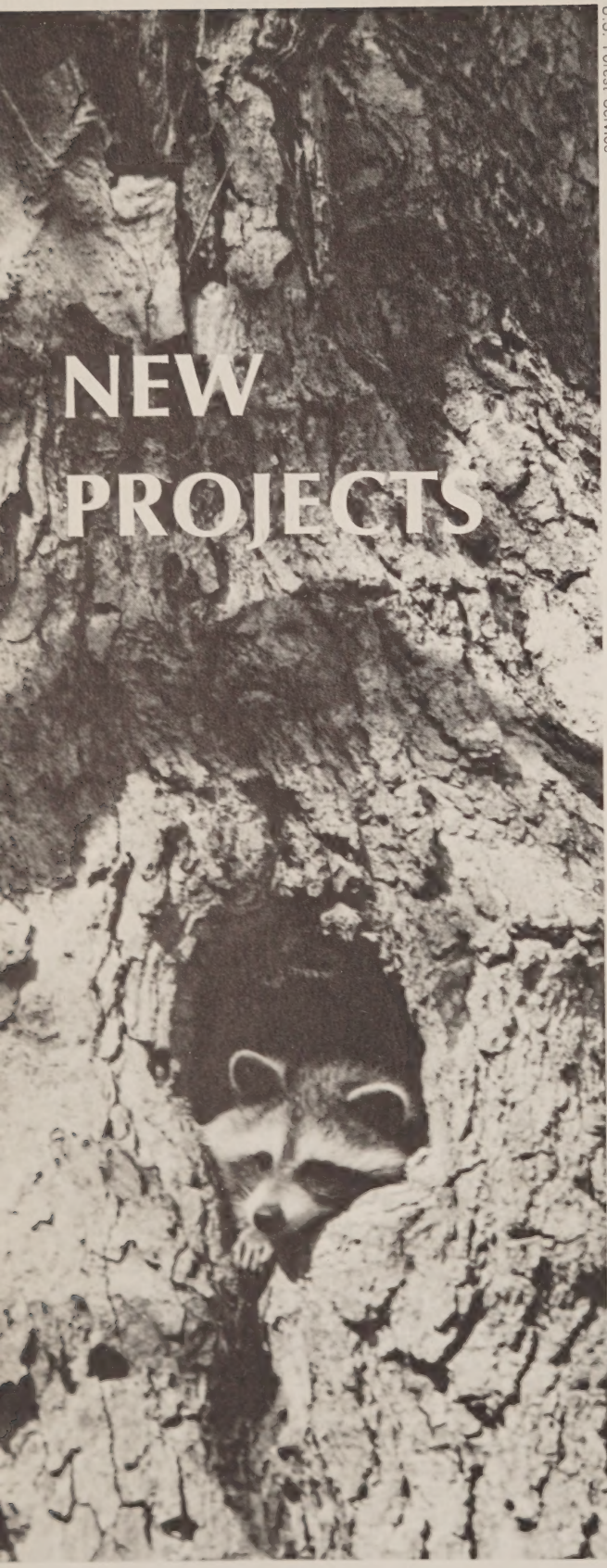
Inside Cover Photo: Photo by Lawrence Hudetz.

The Nature Conservancy is a member-governed organization, incorporated in 1951 in the District of Columbia for non-profit educational and scientific purposes.

The Nature Conservancy's first land-saving effort was in 1954. This very successful endeavor turned out to be the forerunner of 648 projects totalling over 235,000 acres in which the Conservancy has since been involved.

The Nature Conservancy works closely not only with numerous educational, scientific, and conservation organizations but also with municipal, state, and federal governments.

The Nature Conservancy is the organization rallying the skills, the techniques, and the funds actually necessary to save land. Its total resources are massed for this one objective.



U.S. Forest Service

California

HI MOUNTAIN CONDOR SANCTUARY (San Luis Obispo County). Protective area for endangered California condor. 162 acres. See story, page 6.

HOLMWOOD (Placer County). 733 acres in the Lake Tahoe Valley include a section of Wa[illegible] Creek, a principal trout spawning stream, and slopes timbered with sugar pine, cedar, ponderosa, and alder. Springs sustain lush undergrowth in several locations. Purchased at the request of and transferred to the U.S. Forest Service.

Florida

ROOKERY BAY—Shell Island addition—(Collier County). A key feeding area for wading birds of southern Florida and the site of an historic Indian shell mound, Shell Island was threatened with development. The 133-acre purchase brings the Rookery Bay Sanctuary to 3,425 acres. The mangrove forests, salt marshes, and highlands of the Bay area are a birdwatcher's paradise and an invaluable marine resource.*

SWEETBAY SWAMP (Leon County). Located in the city of Tallahassee, this 6-acre "swamp" is more glade, marsh, and bog than standing water. The purchased tract supports mosses, ferns, sweetbay, sweet gum, black tupelo, magnolia, black cherry, and dogwood. There are several clear streams and over 70 species of birds in the area.

Illinois

BIG BEND/VERMILION RIVER—La Salle County Conservation District addition—(La Salle County). In an unusual situation, the Conservancy acquired 85 acres of land in a court-ordered deed transfer. After the dissolution of the La Salle County Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy was deemed the best custodian for conservation use of this property. The two-tract addition is adjacent to the Big Bend Preserve on the Vermilion River and enlarges this preserve of wooded bluffs to 263 acres.

DONSBACH PRESERVE (Jasper County). This 60-acre gift/purchase is part of a continuing p[illegible]gram of habitat acquisition in Illinois which seeks to insure the survival of the endangered prairie grouse.

Minnesota

STRANDNESS PRAIRIE (Pope County). A 40-acre purchase of virgin prairie near Lake Victoria is a waterfowl nesting site. Vegetation includes little bluestem, crested hairgrass, porcupine grass,

northern dropseed, golden alexander, and buffalo bean.

JEAN LUNDBERG TEETER MEMORIAL, Queen's Bluff (Winona County). On the highest point along the Mississippi River, the Conservancy purchased 20 acres of prairie-forest transition zone. The uppermost edge of the cliff supports a relict stand of northern white cedar, which is 160 miles south of its southernmost neighbor. Northern conifers are combined with deciduous forest species such as witch hazel, hickory, oak, and honey locust. "Goat prairie" vegetation includes little bluestem, Indian grass, hairy grama, pasqueflower, and the compass plant.

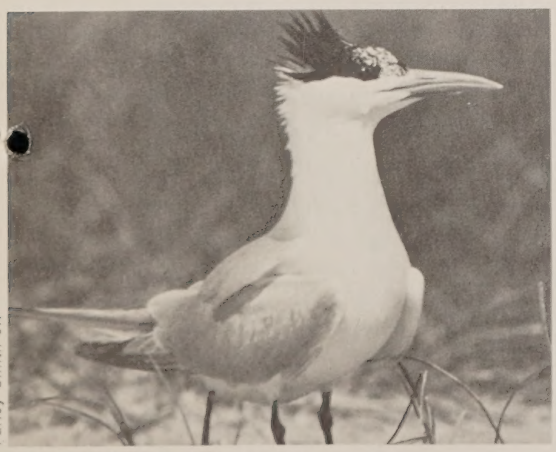
Nebraska

PAWNEE PRAIRIE (Pawnee County). The Conservancy's first preserve in Nebraska, the 320-acre prairie was purchased as habitat for a remnant flock of greater prairie chickens rare to the area. Tree cover includes locust, cottonwood, elm, cedar, mulberry, and walnut. Switch grass and Indian grass are among the native grasses. Deer, rabbits, ducks, squirrels, and turkeys also inhabit the tract.

New York

BONTICOU CONSERVANCY—Table Rocks addition—(Ulster County). With the purchase of 108½ acres of woodland dominated by hemlock, the existing preserve (formerly called Scarsdale Preserve) is expanded to 242½ acres. This addition is notable for its ice caves where ice remains until early July and where several species of mosses and ferns can be found. The "table rocks" area offers a spectacular view of Mohonk, Minnewaska, the Rondout Valley, and the Catskills.

SCHONBERG SALT MARSH (Suffolk County). Located on the western shore of Little Ram Island (Shelter Island), Coecles Harbor, 2½ acres grade from typical upland plant associations into a salt marsh community. Great blue herons and ospreys have been sighted on the property, which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schonberg.



Farley Smith Jr.

Luther C. Goldman

WHITBECK MEMORIAL GROVE (Albany County). A purchase of 26 acres of wooded, rolling terrain near New Scotland contains hemlock, white pine, maple, white birch, oak, aspen, sumac, and dogwood.

Ohio

WARREN WELLS PRESERVE (Hamilton County). 33-acre purchase of rolling woodland is cut by several small streams. Wisconsin Glacial till soil sustains magnificent beech, maple, and pine forest. Red tailed and red shouldered hawks, barred and great horned owls, black crowned night herons, woodcocks, nighthawks, and hummingbirds abound. Flora includes ladies' tresses, showy orchis, white and yellow lilies, and Adderstongue ferns.

Texas

HOOKS-REID BOG (Tyler County). In the Big Thicket of East Texas, this 8½-acre bog purchased by the Conservancy supports three species of orchids, several insectivorous plants, and a luxuriant growth of ferns.

** Fund-raising in progress.*

Carl B. Koford

The California Condor

Conservancy helps protect bird facing extinction

by Bruce Wolfe, *Western Regional Office*

Shot, poisoned, its habitat suffering steady destruction, its nests robbed by egg collectors, the California condor has been brought to the brink of extinction by the uninformed and the irresponsible.

The tenuous condition of this largest of all North American land birds (wingspan of 8½-9 feet) is underscored by the fact that perhaps only 40 to 60 individuals are known to survive, most inhabiting a remote portion of the Los Padres National Forest along the Pacific Coast Range north of Los Angeles. The condor is listed as an endangered species in the Red Book of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and was declared a nature monument as long as 30 years ago at the 1942 Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere. The condor is thus considered a national and world resource of great interest. It is now depicted on one of the four new 8-cent postage stamps illustrating endangered wild-

life.

Determined efforts to protect and enhance the quality of condor habitat areas on national forest lands have been under way by the U. S. Forest Service since 1965, with the assistance of the National Audubon Society and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of this program, The Nature Conservancy was recently asked by the Forest Service to acquire a key private inholding in the Los Padres National Forest located about 15 miles east of San Luis Obispo in the Santa Lucia Mountains. Potential exploitation of this property, totalling some 162 acres of rugged terrain, would pose a threat to an important condor nesting site a few hundred yards away.

The adjoining rookery has produced at least one bird annually for the past three consecutive years. This is the most heavily used area known to exist. Condors are notoriously sensitive about breeding sites and have been known to abandon the nest (usually located in a natural rock cave) at the slightest provocation. Since they nest only once every other year and lay only one egg, the preservation of a proven nesting site is essential if a viable condor population is to be maintained.

Due to certain budget restrictions and a seller whose asking price far exceeded the Forest Service's appraisal, the Conservancy was considered to be the organization with the negotiating skills, flexibility, and resources needed to acquire the land in question.

Negotiations extended over a ten-month period. During the bargaining, the Conservancy's Western Regional Office staff was successful in reducing the price to nearly half the figure originally asked and was able to delete any reservations of mineral rights demanded by the seller. The purchase was consummated in August 1971, and the property was immediately deeded to the Forest Service at slightly less than the Conservancy's cost.

The Nature Conservancy and the National Audubon Society are now studying the possibility of joint acquisition of ranchlands adjacent to the famous Sespe Condor Sanctuary, located in a separate part of the Los Padres Forest. The preservation of this property, both as a feeding area and as a buffer zone, may be critical to the success of the nesting area in the Sanctuary itself. Unfortunately, few, if any, federal funds can be expected to aid in this effort since the property lies outside the Forest boundaries and statutory and budget restrictions prevent the needed expansion. Further, mineral rights are in the hands of various oil companies, some of which are drilling nearby. This exasperating situation is typical of the uphill battle faced by conservationists who are trying to perpetuate life forms of ecological significance. The combined forces of affluence, expanding population, and unregulated technological advance are despoiling much of this nation's most important wildlife habitats.

Despite the positive steps made thus far, the condor may yet fall victim to progress. The combined threats of an open-pit phosphate mine between two major portions of the Sespe Sanctuary and the far more critical problem of the loss to development of the vast feeding and foraging areas in the Tehachapi Mountains, the southern Sierra, and what's left of the southern Ventura County rangelands may very well eliminate this magnificent creature from California skies.

Fred Sibley

Bruce Wolfe

OASIS DE LOS OSOS

CANYON CARVED BY WATER, WIND & TIME

by Anne Webb, *National Office*

Through all the eons of earth's history, the forces of erosion have worked unceasingly to reduce the land to the level of the sea. Of these forces, running water is the most important. Century after century, streams carrying the dissolved elements of soil and rock and pushing staggering quantities of stony debris have moved through their valleys to the great settling basin, the ocean.

In the canyons of the western United States, the work of running water in fashioning the face of the earth can be seen in one of its most dramatic forms. One confronts in a canyon both the power of a stream to chew its way through solid rock and its gentle strength in supporting an abundance of life. Here, where earth has been cut sharp and deep, exposing in the layered rocks its age, one also comes to realize the immensity of time.

How long it took for an unnamed stream in Riverside County, California, to create the canyon area in the northern flank of the San Jacinto Mountains, now known as Oasis de los Osos, is uncertain; but, for even this small carving out of the desert, the processes of time and water are awesome. From a distance, the 160-acre preserve (a somewhat modest area for a western canyonland) appears to be a desolate pile of rocks, bleak and forbidding. Once within the canyon's boundaries, however, the verdant richness of the well-watered bottom commands attention to the intensity and immediacy of life. The perennial watercourse acts like a magnet for many species of vegetation and wildlife which could not otherwise survive in the arid climate.

The stream, originating in the heights of San Bernardino National Forest, enters the preserve at an elevation above 2,000 feet and bisects the area from southwest to northeast. Its entrance is swift: over a 25-foot waterfall at the end of a box canyon, through a curtain of maiden hair fern, and down a series of lesser falls that occur on the edge of the preserve. Here, where the cutting work of water is concentrated and rapid and other forces of erosion minimal, the canyon walls are almost vertical and only twenty to thirty feet apart. From these steep embankments, one can look out to the stark and barren sands of the desert floor of the San Gorgonio Pass and beyond to mountains ten to twenty miles in the distance.

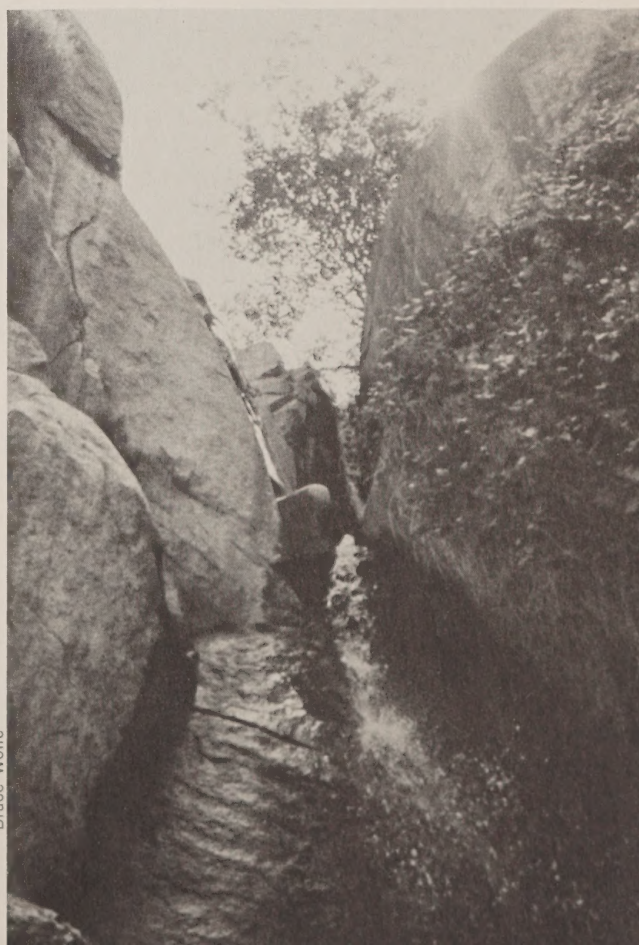
The stream rushes by these gray cliffs and around mammoth boulders, flowing on, concave to the sky, past somewhat gentler slopes that have been polished tan, ochre, and rust by the prevailing down-canyon winds. The force of this wind, as well as the nurture of the water, is reflected in the cottonwood trees. These trees, bent by wind into contorted postures, stand along the streambed among the profuseness of wild grape, gooseberry, and poison oak. On the sunny mountain slope, out

at a seemingly independent distance from the water, desert apricot and barrel cactus grow abundantly. Finally, as the stream enters the northeast quarter of the preserve, the slope of the land decreases. Where the stream descends from a steep gradient to a flatter one, its carrying power declines, its velocity is checked, and it rapidly begins to build an alluvial fan, depositing the eroded materials of mountains hundreds of feet above.

In a brief amount of space, the stream through Oasis de los Osos has moved from severe gorge to almost gentle plain covered with desert shrubs. It seems difficult to imagine that anything but water, wind, gravity, and time itself could so decidedly alter this side of a mountain. Yet, there were those who saw the canyon's stream channelled, its natural flood rise prevented, and small acreage estates created where no homestead had been for a hundred years. Perhaps rocks could withstand such projects, but the fragile ecology of the canyon, so dependent upon the life support of the stream, could not. Fortunately, there were people who knew the canyon and cared enough to want to "let it be." And, there was an organization to help turn this concern into a canyon saved.

The property was owned by John VanPelt of Los Angeles, whose colorful life as a sailor, miner, designer, and builder of homes led him to become a strong advocate of preserving natural areas. Unfortunately, he died before he decided about donating his land to the Conservancy. After his death, Conservancy representatives negotiated with the heirs to keep the property off the open market. During this time, contact was made with Robert Bear of Beaumont, California, currently Executive Director of the Desert Protective Council of Banning, California, who has had a long personal acquaintance with and a deep love for this canyon. Through an extraordinarily generous gift of stock, he made it possible for the Conservancy to buy the VanPelt property, thus turning what he first saw as a personal desert retreat into a living family memorial—Oasis de los Osos—for which he will serve as caretaker. The assistance of Willard Stone, an attorney and trustee of the Conservancy's Southern California Chapter, was also instrumental in the negotiations. His work is yet another example of the volunteer efforts—the donation of time, skill, and experience—without which the Conservancy could not hope to guarantee that there will remain places where only the forces of wind and water and the ever-turning cycles of life —and not the hand of man pressured by some short-sighted demand of his brief moment in time —will change the face of the land.

Bruce Wolfe



Bruce Wolfe

Luther C. Goldman

CEDAR GLEN

by Joyce Marshall Brukoff, *Illinois Chapter*

Location: a promontory in a secluded glen.
Temperature: −7°
Time: the hushed dark of a January pre-dawn. We could just make out the spreading sycamore trees below.

We stamped about in the snow in a vain effort to stave off the cold. All the telescopes were pointed towards the trees. At long last, the sky emitted its first dim rays of light. In the tree branches we could discern great, dark forms perched motionless and huddled up in the cold.

Here, on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River in Hancock County, across from Keokuk, Iowa, was Cedar Glen, a unique winter roosting area of the endangered species which you see on the presidential seal and on every 25-cent piece—the bald eagle.

As we watched in the gray dawn, the first eagle broke, lifting powerfully into the sky. A younger bird followed, then another. Soon the entire group had soared off to the day roost not far away.

Eagles flock to the natural bowl of Cedar Glen every December and stay until early March, roosting each night in the sycamore trees. Mid-March they migrate north. The eagles have come to the

glen for hundreds of years; Frank Bellrose of the Illinois Natural History Survey has personally observed them here for some 25 years. As many as 133 birds have been sighted in a single season; last winter 78 were counted. The importance of the glen may be understood when it is considered that the total number of bald eagles within the contiguous 48 states is no more than 500 to 700 breeding pairs, a figure which has alarmingly declined in recent years.

What makes Cedar Glen such choice eagle habitat? Its 182 acres are heavily forested, with gently rolling hillsides slanting into rocky ravines. Several bluffs vary in height from 50 to 100 feet. The forest is composed of maple, basswood, oak, hickory, and sycamore. All of this lies in a protected valley, and eagle taste deems it perfect for sheltered night roosting.

One-quarter mile away from the glen are the sunny day roosts and favorite fishing places to which the birds set out at the first light of day. Here, they keep an eye out for dead and injured fish, chiefly gizzard shad, which are believed to be victims of shifting water temperatures below the Keokuk Dam two miles upstream. How the eagles catch their fish depends on wind conditions that day. On calm mornings the birds sit and preen themselves awaiting mid-day thermal winds on which to soar and search for floating fish. On windless days more energy is required to keep their 9- to 12-pound bodies aloft. However, when winter skies are blustery the birds will return to the roost to sit it out and fish on a better day.

We followed the eagles all through their day's activities, forgetting the zero weather. Our group of ten represented the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Western Illinois University. Our guides were Dr. John E. Warnock, WIU professor and director of the Alice B. Kibbe Life Science Station adjacent to the glen, and Dr. Thomas C. Dunstan, Western wildlife ecologist who had spent many days tracking the movements and behavior of the eagles in Cedar Glen and the nearby river bottoms.

Our presence in Cedar Glen was preceded by several events. A plan had been announced to sell the eagle roost for timber. This threat prompted members of the Illinois Chapter to take immediate action. After consulting with scientists from the University, The Nature Conservancy signed a purchase contract for $34,000.

If the money could be raised, we could rest assured that the sanctuary would remain intact and the established life pattern of the eagles would not be disturbed. Our trip to the glen was to personally acquaint ourselves with the roost, as we were to return and embark on the fund-raising drive to fulfill the $34,000 obligation.

Since that cold January dawn a lot has happened. The area will probably be leased to Western Illinois University as part of the Kibbe research station. Dr. Warnock will act as preserve manager, and Dr. Dunstan will continue his bald eagle studies.

In an article appearing in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on May 23, 1971, environmental editor Bruce Ingersoll described the Cedar Glen project and its role in the eagle's survival. The story drew the attention of Representative J. Theodore Meyer of Chicago. At Representative Meyer's recommendation, the 2½-mile stretch of the Mississippi which flows between the Keokuk Dam and Warsaw, Illinois, past Cedar Glen, has been added to the state's proposed Scenic Rivers Act, under which several Illinois rivers will be protected from excavation, sand mining, and other abuse.

Thus the Cedar Glen eagles are on their way to security. But final assurance will not come until the $34,000 obligation is met. When the last penny fulfills the contract, the sycamore trees will guarantee winter shelter to the bird so long identified with America itself.

". . . But you must remember," warns Dr. Dunstan, "this is no tourist attraction. It is a sanctuary for an endangered species and it should not be trespassed."

Cedar Glen hosts a large portion of the bald eagle population during the winter season.

Thomas C. Dunstan

Jack Lynn

FINZEL SWAMP

CREATING A DEFENSIBLE PRESERVE

by Herb Haywood, *National Office*

North of the little town of Frostburg in western Maryland, spring-fed Finzel Swamp lies 2700 feet up, high on the Allegheny Front, where wildlife finds safety from hunters in the dense vegetation and marshy substrate. Tamarack, highbush blueberry, and wild calla grow here in one of their southernmost stations in the U. S.

The flora of Finzel exist in a refugium, a microclimate of relict colonies which survived the retreat of the glaciers that originally forced them south. These plants endemic to northern habitats and uncommon to the state of Maryland include cranberry, red spruce, golden club, yellow birch, gold thread, and Canadian burnet. Finzel supports them because favorable circumstances persisted—a cold moist condition, a frost pocket, and poor water drainage.

The wettest portions of the swamp are thick with blueberries and viburnum. In the drier areas, rhododendron is the dominant shrub, with a variety of tree species including hemlock, oak, witch hazel, red maple, and yellow birch. On still higher ground, red maple, red oak, witch hazel, hickory, and sassafras predominate, along with continually profuse rhododendron.

Located at the headwaters of the Savage River which flows southwest, Finzel might loosely be described as the river's source. The highest point in the vicinity, Sampson Rock (2934 feet), lies to the immediate northeast, and the ridges sloping down from it cradle the swamp and control the natural drainage.

The scientific staff of nearby Frostburg State College had been conducting studies of plant succession in Finzel Swamp for some time and became fearful that human activity, fire, and beaver dams would cause gradual destruction. They called on The Nature Conservancy to help save this outdoor laboratory. The Conservancy was well aware of the ecological value of such mountain bog habitats, having previously assisted in the preservation of similar Cranesville Swamp about 40 miles to the west in West Virginia.

Through the generous support of a donor, the Conservancy was able to begin a full-scale acquisition program to preserve all 250 acres of the Finzel watershed. It is herein that the project takes on a significance beyond even the natural value of the land itself: The availability of funds gave the Conservancy the latitude to actively seek the creation of an ecologically defensible preserve, rather than merely responding to a proffered opportunity to buy or accept a donation. Take lines were drawn up, with the aid of topographic maps and descriptive materials, to include all land in the immediate watershed which would make the preserve as safe as possible from any deleterious development of

adjacent property, and this area became the object of an intense acquisition program.

There were many difficulties inherent in this approach. In the surrounding community, land was the traditional basis of family wealth and owners were initially unwilling to sell. The concept of natural area preservation was viewed with suspicion; conservation had little meaning to most local citizens. It was thus necessary for the Conservancy to spend several years assembling the various ownership interests, taking special care to earn the confidence of the landowners, to offer a uniform per-acre price, and to make known the desired conservation use in detail. To date, the Conservancy has successfully acquired buffer lands to the top of the ridges flanking the swamp and nearly all of the swamp itself. Purchase of the few remaining parcels necessary to the security of the swamp is still being negotiated, and efforts will continue as long as necessary. Frostburg State, meanwhile, is forming a management committee and is establishing nature trails to aid the bog's use as an outdoor classroom.

Finzel Swamp stands as an example of the importance of defensibility in preservation. A preserve has value partly in proportion to its degree of defensibility, and no Conservancy project should be considered complete until all buffer lands necessary to its safety are controlled, whether via fee simple ownership, conservation or other easement, right of first refusal, or joint ownership with other conservation groups.

Jack Lynn

Tamarack (opposite page) and highbush blueberry (above) grow at Finzel in one of their southernmost stations. Below, panoramic view over Allegheny Front from Finzel Swamp.

Jack Lynn

NO ONE Has saved our cougar yet

Conservationists, while dealing with the immediate needs of land preservation, perhaps think mainly in abstract terms of the perpetuity toward which their efforts are directed. Seldom, it seems, do we think in concrete terms of our own children and grandchildren.

The real meaning of our efforts lies with those who touch our personal lives—the children we love and for whom we wish to provide the best possible environment, one worth living in. This meaning is perhaps made most vivid with Aravaipa Canyon. No other preservation project of The Nature Conservancy has so captured the imagination of the young.

Last Fall the News *ran its first story on Aravaipa Canyon. Since then, no response has been as eager and as encouraging as that of a third grade class at the Monte Vista School in Lancaster, California. They speak to us as our own children.*

The class collected $10.00 to save the endangered cougar, the golden eagle, and the countless other species which depend on the canyon for survival. Although Aravaipa cannot yet be considered officially "saved"—the Conservancy still needs $950,000 to protect the Canyon's 15,384 acres which are held by purchase and by lease—this kind of heartfelt support, though small in dollars, brings home the true reason for our efforts.

We would like to share with you the enthusiasm and concern of these children for the animals of Aravaipa. Reprinted below are excerpts from a letter from their teacher, Mrs. Maureen Pyner, and from letters written by the children themselves.

Gentlemen:

Please accept our check . . . to help buy Aravaipa Canyon, Pinal County, Arizona, a refuge for our beloved puma, golden eagle, and countless other species. We are delighted to give it and our happiness knows no bounds at the prospect of knowing there is a sanctuary available to these dear creatures.

I feel fortunate in having a conscientious, willing, and anxious group of young people in my class who are as intensely interested in helping our wildlife and preserving our environment as myself. (They are also concerned about the senseless killing of all life that continues to go on in this world).

. . . we decided to ACT and TO DO OUR SMALL PART in helping you. Your picture of this magnificent species [puma on cover of Fall *News* 1970] is a real "soul" picture, and he is indeed speaking to us with his eyes. . . . We can't tell you how grateful we are for people like you and how much you have inspired us!

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Maureen Pyner

I am glad you are concerned about the cougar; I'm very happy that at least someone is trying to save the wonderful cougar. I want these animals to have a nice home that they like. I am sure glad that you are helping our wildlife. Some people just sit around and say there is nothing to do around here. If they would only write an ecology letter. Sometimes I think, are all the animals becoming extinct? If I had $100 I would spend it on ecology.

Your friend,
Glenda Gaye Roscoe

We are delighted to know that you have a big piece of land for the cougar. And do you know what we saved up? $10.00 dollars! Is there anything else we can do if that isn't enough? I'm so happy that you are so concerned about the cougar.

Maureen Murphy

We all love the animals. I love the cougar the most. We are putting money in for the wild life. I put a dollar in. We've been sending letters to our President. We want the Wild life to live.

Love,
Ruth Landin

We want to help the puma. What else can we do to help the puma. We have $9.48 for the land. We hope we can get a law not to kill the puma, eagle, coyote, bobcat, gery fox, wild pig, white tailed deer, bat, deer mouse, kangaroo rat, pocket mouse before they all become extinct!

Sincerely yours,
Mary Bernhardt

We all want to help the cougar. I like cougars because they have cute faces and are beautiful. I am so concerned about it. He is the beautifulest animal.

Sincerely,
Lisa Stodgell

We love animals and I hope you love animals too. We have $9.48 right now. We have been worried about the cougar. People are still killing the eagle and cougar and wildlife. Please do something about the animals.

Love,
Darlene Richardson

Will you save the animals that are in danger? I like the cougar the most. We have heard about the land you are trying to buy.

Sincerely,
Kevin Faris

I hope you can do something about the mountain lion and the cougar. I am very concerned about them. They are very beautiful animals. They both are in very much of danger. Mountain lions have a right to kill to feed their babies. Cougars have such cute little faces. They remind me of my own kitty. We should all try to help them. Cougars should have a land where they can live free.

Sincerely,
Shari Magenot

Help save our cougar. We have $10.00 for you. I want to save the eagle too.

Sincerely yours,
Steve Maromon

You are very nice of trying to save our cougar. The mountain lion is becoming extinct, because of men trying to kill it. Lets let animals be free please. Will you please try to save it, please?

Sincerely,
Kathy Arnel

I am so happy that you are trying to save the animals of the world. I hope someone will listen to you and not just forget it. But I will listen. I am not like some of those other people. I want to save it. Some other people want to save them too. I am 8. My name is Theron Myers and I am interested in it. To your family and all,

Sincerely,
Theron Myers

Ecology Forum

No. 1

by Robert E. Jenkins,
Ecology Advisor, National Office

As the capabilities of The Nature Conservancy have grown and land saving efforts have proven their viability, it is becoming increasingly important to critically examine the conceptual framework of these activities, their relationship to other programs, the implications of our commitment to perpetuity, and the evaluation of our contributions to the general environmental movement. Scientific and ecological considerations infuse all of these aspects of our programs, and, beginning with this issue, there will be a continuing series of articles dealing with these and related subjects. Interest in diversifying the content of the *News* with commentary on these matters has been widely expressed, and if such articles stimulate discussion and provoke some critical stock-taking and the exchange of ideas which lead to improvements in our practices, they will have accomplished their purpose.

Among the important themes to be covered in this series is research on natural areas. The Conservancy itself grew out of a purely scientific organization when its precursory body was established as a special committee of the Ecological Society of America in 1917. The scientists who participated in its founding, including many of the nation's leading ecologists, were primarily concerned that the destruction of the American landscape was proceeding so rapidly as to completely eliminate the sorts of undisturbed areas required for their work. These men believed that preserving examples of the entire spectrum of natural ecosystems was a vital task. They felt that in order to husband our resources, and even survive, we would have to study and understand the ecological functioning of our life support systems and the complex web of organic relationships which mediates and stabilizes biological processes.

Research on natural areas is becoming increasingly important today as these life support systems are placed under greater and greater strains. One newer concept which will be dealt with involves the idea of baseline investigations in which scientific surveillance of natural areas is used to monitor the effects of human activities elsewhere.

Pressures on the land have grown much greater than they were in 1917 or even in 1951 when The Nature Conservancy was formally incorporated. With this escalation of environmental abuse, the Conservancy, as one part of the counter-movement, has appropriately broadened its land-saving objectives to reflect the needs of the times. By concentrating its resources and attacking the most critical problems, the organization has an impressive capability to make continued contributions.

The question of how to optimize the Conservancy's effectiveness is closely tied to a variety of scientific questions, and future articles will explore three vital areas where scientific inputs are critical to the decision-making process: establishment of protected areas, their management, and their uses.

Establishing preserves involves, in addition to the acquisition process, identification of needs, setting of priorities, selection of take lines, determination of a preserve's objectives, and the evaluation of alternatives. Conservancy members should know, for example, of the inventories being conducted all around the country to establish natural area priorities, of the efforts being made to develop a national natural areas system, and of guidelines being developed for systematic procedures to improve preserve viability.

Management of the areas owned by The Nature Conservancy is a growing problem as the number of areas increases. Perpetual protection is a complex and serious task which will inevitably become more important as time passes, and one can even project a day when no new acquisition will be possible and management obligations become paramount. At present an attempt is being made to come to grips with this problem by writing a new preserve management manual for Conservancy properties. Many of the most critical questions deal with ecological matters such as vegetative succession, natural catastrophes, and ecosystem restoration. Again, there are many conceptual

(Continued p. 18)

Each year The Nature Conservancy recognizes the efforts of its volunteer members through the presentation of the Green Leaf Award. This award is indicative of especially dedicated service and support toward achieving the Conservancy's objective: the preservation and protection of "all types of wild nature." The following eleven individuals are the 1971 recipients:

EDMUND C. BRAY, Chairman of the Minnesota Chapter, is presented the Green Leaf in acknowledgement of his full-time leadership of the chapter which has resulted in an increased level both of support and tempo of operations throughout the state. Noted, too, is Mr. Bray's broader environmental work as a member of the Scientific and Natural Areas Advisory Committee to the Minnesota Commission of Natural Resources.

WARREN DELANO is awarded the Conservancy Green Leaf in recognition of his active leadership of the Maine Chapter and his long-time volunteer efforts on behalf of the Conservancy and its goals. In August 1970, under Mr. Delano's direction, the Rachel Carson Maine Seacoast of The Nature Conservancy was dedicated. The area is now comprised of twenty-seven preserves, all of which honor the memory of Miss Carson and the spirit of her work.

G. WILLIAM DESOUSA, completing his second and final year as the Chairman of the Connecticut Chapter, is awarded the Green Leaf in grateful recognition of his intensive volunteer efforts toward achieving the Conservancy's objectives within Connecticut and for his work toward the larger goals of the cause for a better environment. Under Mr. DeSousa's leadership, the Connecticut Chapter has become one of the Conservancy's most active volunteer units, completing twenty-eight projects in 1970 alone.

MRS. BRADLEY FISK receives The Nature Conservancy Green Leaf in recognition of her long-standing interest in and work for conservation objectives in the Southeast as well as her contributions toward increased ornithological knowledge. Additionally, her volunteer efforts have been responsible for furthering the Conservancy's goals and projects in the State of Florida.

CHARLES C. HAFFNER, III, is recognized with the Conservancy Green Leaf for his volunteer efforts in support of the Illinois Chapter. As Chairman of the Prairie Grouse Committee, he led a project effort that, through acquisition and preservation of threatened habitat, has started an Illinois endangered species on the road to survival.

DR. J. ARTHUR HERRICK of Kent State University has been a prime mover since the early days of the Conservancy's Ohio Chapter. His Green Leaf is awarded in recognition of his past effective work which has been instrumental in the actual preservation of many areas in Ohio as well as in awareness of his continuing efforts on behalf of the chapter's program throughout the state.

DR. DONALD R. KINDSCHI is awarded the Conservancy Green Leaf in appreciative recognition of his personal commitment toward the preservation of natural lands in Wisconsin and for his work with and in support of the Wisconsin Chapter. Dr. Kindschi has been specifically involved as an active volunteer in the creation of Gasser Sand Barrens, John Moely Woods, Kindschi Woods, Schluckebier Sand Barrens, as well as the recent Gruber Woods addition to Baxter's Hollow Preserve.

FREDERIC E. LAKE, founder of the East End Branch of the Long Island Chapter has, through

his dedicated efforts, been in large part accountable for the Branch's successful acquisition of some twenty preserves in the East Hampton and Southampton areas. The Green Leaf is given in recognition of his evidenced personal commitment to the Conservancy's goals as well as his concern for the broad objectives of the conservation movement.

DR. EUGENE H. MAN of the University of Miami at Coral Gables is awarded the Green Leaf in general recognition of his commitment to a better environment and specifically for his vital role over many years in preserving Lignumvitae Key. This relict island in Florida, comprising the last remaining biotic community representative of the Keys' original ecosystem, has now been set aside as a protected area.

RALPH E. RAMEY, JR., Chairman of the Conservancy's Ohio Chapter, is presented the Green Leaf in awareness of his tireless volunteer leadership efforts which have brought the Ohio Chapter to new levels of effective action in pursuing the Conservancy's national objective.

GEORGE W. WHEELWRIGHT, III, receives his Green Leaf in recognition of his long-time commitment to conservation evidenced in part by his creation of the Hope Wheelwright Preserve at Green Gulch Ranch on the Pacific coast north of San Francisco. This area is a keystone in the Conservancy's Marin Headlands and San Francisco Bay Programs.

(Ecology Forum continued)

questions to which the entire membership should be exposed.

All of these three major areas are intimately related and the question of how Conservancy lands should be used is obviously an extension of the other two. In addition to the sorts of scientific research mentioned above, other uses would include education, land use demonstrations, various sorts of bufferage, and aesthetic enjoyment. The degree of public access and the extent to which recreation might be compatible with the goals of specific preserves or parts of preserves are central issues.

Limitations of space will prevent the inclusion of many concepts and bodies of knowledge which ought to be treated in such articles. An effort will be made to at least select subjects of greatest interest and importance and, as much as possible, to convey news of Conservancy activity related to the areas being treated.

Project Revolving Fund Progress Report

The Project Revolving Fund has now grown to $1,907,000. Each donation to the Fund is increased 25% by the Ford Foundation challenge grant (see Winter *News* 1971). We will report on the progress of the Fund toward the $4,000,000 goal in each edition of the *News*.

NOTES

The 1971 Annual Report of The Nature Conservancy is now available upon request.

Wallace C. Dayton, Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors, has been appointed to the U. S. National Commission for UNESCO by Secretary of State William P. Rogers.

Wildlife paintings and drawings by DeVere Burt, Director of the Mid-America/Gulf Regional Office, were exhibited at the Cincinnati Nature Center from August 29 to September 11. DeVere Burt's drawings have appeared in *The Nature Conservancy News* (Fall 1970, Winter 1971, Summer 1971), including page 19 of this issue.

New Annual Corporate Membership Established

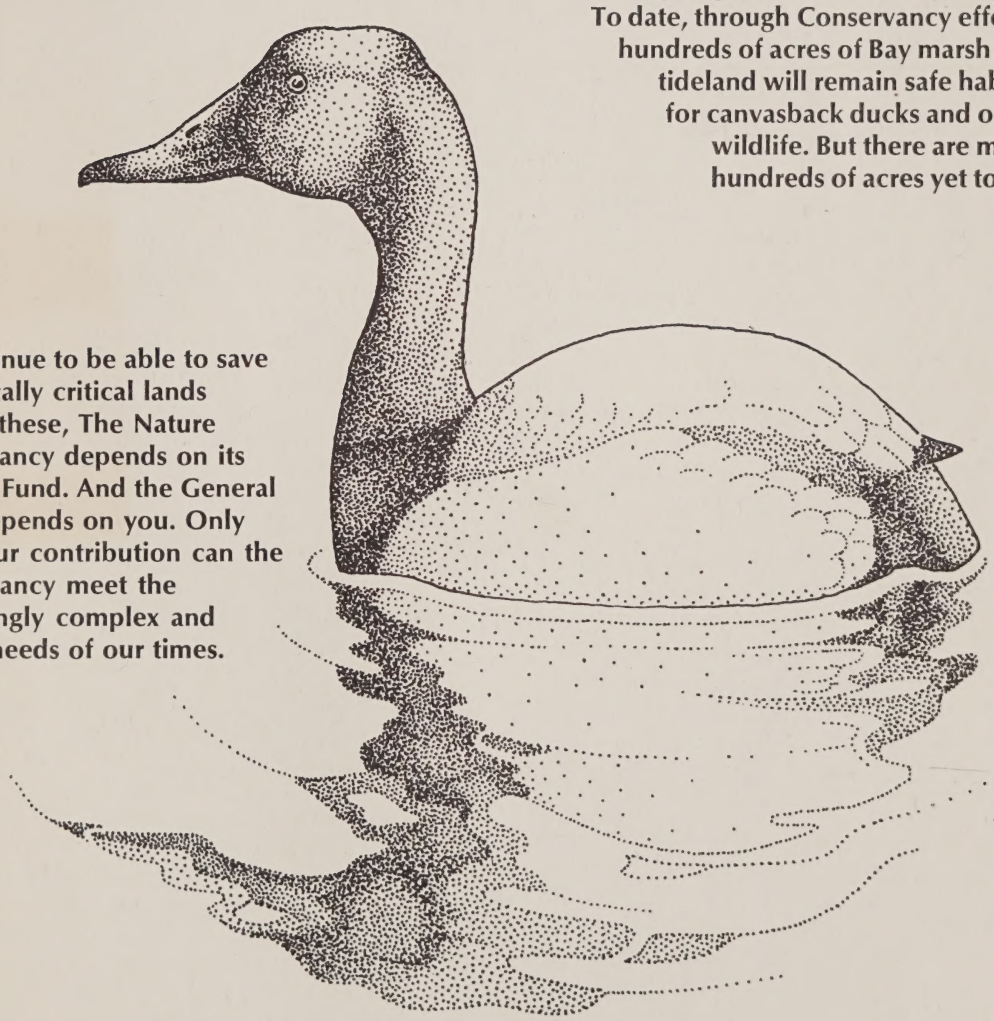
Corporations may now become annual members of The Nature Conservancy and make significant contributions in support of the Conservancy's program through the new Corporate Membership category.

Members and friends of the Conservancy are urged to encourage corporations to participate in the Conservancy's work through this new membership opportunity. Corporations will become annual members with a minimum yearly contribution of $1,000 which will be applied to the General Fund.

Man vs. Duck

Man and his "progress" usually win when it comes to deciding the fate of the wetlands ducks depend on.

But The Nature Conservancy managed to save the marshes of Tubbs Island in San Francisco Bay for the canvasback ducks who have wintered there every year longer than any man today can remember. The preservation of Tubbs Island began the Conservancy's ongoing San Francisco Bay Project. To date, through Conservancy efforts, hundreds of acres of Bay marsh and tideland will remain safe habitat for canvasback ducks and other wildlife. But there are many hundreds of acres yet to go.



To continue to be able to save ecologically critical lands such as these, The Nature Conservancy depends on its General Fund. And the General Fund depends on you. Only with your contribution can the Conservancy meet the increasingly complex and urgent needs of our times.

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